

July 19, 2001

IMPORTANT

To: Gwen Zervas, NJDEP

From: Stephen Cipot, USEPA
212-637-4411



Hi Gwen,

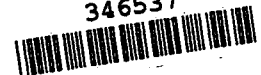
Here is a copy of the recent article that states that Rodney is gunning for several superfund sites to be cleaned up. One of them is Dayco/LE Carpenter. He is planning a site visit in August, date keeps changing, but is now the 13th - but who knows when. Obviously, this site has been on the back burner, and as the Murphy law will mercilessly have it, the timing is such that we owe you some reviews. Please know we are working on it, but have been swamped with other work, but I hope to have the reviews to you within the next 2 weeks. The delays have been out of my control. Otherwise, I hope you don't make us look to bad on this one!

Stephen

Enclosure

(3 pages - 4 total)

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Subj: GARDEN STATE ENVIRONNEWS 010711
Date: 7/12/01 1:25:41 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From:
Reply-to:
To:

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Carole
Steele

FYI

km

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GARDEN STATE ENVIRONNEWS

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SUPERFUND SITES IN MORRIS COUNTY

Date: 010711

From: <http://www.dailyrecord.com/>

SOME MORRIS OFFICIALS FRUSTRATED WITH LACK OF PROGRESS ON CLEANUPS

By Colleen O'Dea, Daily Record, 010711

Just three of Morris County's most polluted sites have been cleaned up in the two decades since the enactment of the federal Superfund law - and that has some local officials frustrated.

"The Superfund implementation has been a complete environmental disaster," said John Inglesino, mayor of Rockaway Township, home to three sites on the National Priority List and two other sites not considered in critical need of cleanup. "We just see millions wasted on lawyers and consultants and nothing getting cleaned up."

A Congressional report released Tuesday found the amount spent on cleanups will remain the same or rise for at least the next five years and taxpayers now are footing a greater share of the costs because the corporate Superfund tax expired six years ago and is unlikely to be reauthorized.

Cleanup of the three sites in Morris County that has been completed - Asbestos Dump in Millington, Pepe Field in Boonton and Combe Fill North in Mount Olive - cost nearly \$55 million.

But that's relatively low compared to some other projects. So far, \$57 million in federal Superfund and state bond funds has been authorized to clean contaminated water and soil at the 102-acre Combe Fill South Landfill in Chester and Washington Township. On the Superfund priority list since 1983, Combe Fill South has been the site of substantial cleanup work, but the state Department of Environmental Protection is conducting further studies of contamination of the deep

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aquifer at the site.

"The problem is, when you're dealing with the cost of disposing of hazardous materials, it's expensive," said Jeff Tittel, director of the New Jersey chapter of the Sierra Club. "That's why they got dumped illegally in the first place. They're too expensive to dispose of. But there's a lot of money spent on administrative overhead. The program needs stricter government oversight." In addition to the high cost, the cleanups are taking too long, some officials say.

While Combe Fill North was substantially cleaned up in 1993, DEP did further work last year to address drainage problems and continues monitoring water, soil and air at the site and it remains on the Superfund list. Work at both Pepe Field and Asbestos Dump was not completed until last year, though neither has been removed from the list, either.

Meanwhile, Morris County has eight other sites, including Combe Fill South, on the priority list. All are in various stages of study or remediation. An additional 41 sites originally were placed on the Superfund list, but either the levels of contaminants or their potential dangers to the public were not deemed critical enough to make them priorities. These are still contaminated and, theoretically, would be slated for cleanup once the projects on the priority list are completed.

New Jersey has 111 sites on the priority list, two proposed for priority listing, and 460 others not considered priorities. Forty-five sites have been cleaned up, but at least some of them, like the three in Morris County, remain on the list.

"We've made good progress in cleaning up Superfund sites in the 11th Congressional District - Combe Fill North in the western part of Morris County, the former Tiemann property near the Great Swamp, and of course, Pepe Field in Boonton," said U.S. Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, R-NJ. "I continue to make the clean up of all Superfund sites in our area my priority."

Frelinghuysen, who is planning his annual August tour of sites in the district, said he plans to focus specifically on getting the Dayco Corp./L.E. Carpenter Co. site in Wharton and the Radiation Technology site in Rockaway Township cleaned next.

That's good news for Inglesino.

"Fortunately for us, Radiation Technology is not affecting the township's water supply or private wells," he said, "but the ground is still contaminated and that's not a good thing. It's time they start cleaning these sites up."

Before 1972, the 263-acre site was used for the testing and development of rocket engines and propellants. Since then, operations at the site include radiation sterilization and the production of architectural products and hardwood flooring. Drums of solvents and other organic chemicals were improperly disposed on the site, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Contaminated drums and soil have been removed from the site, but work on cleaning up the groundwater has been suspended because the company, which was supposed to do the cleanup, has filed for bankruptcy.

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Some 16 waste storage tanks and more than 5,300 cubic yards of contaminated soil were excavated from the 14.5-acre Carpenter site, a former vinyl wall covering manufacturing facility, but additional cleanup is needed.

Morris County's other priority sites and their status are:

- Dover Municipal Well 4 at Rutan Drive has ground, drinking water and soil contaminated with volatile organic compounds, according to the EPA. The cleanup is in the planning and design stages and \$3.6 million in state and federal funds have been authorized.
- Picatinny Arsenal, Rockaway Township, is home of at least 156 potentially hazardous locations, according to a 1991 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers report. These include areas for testing rocket fuels, chemical and shell burial grounds, landfills, drum storage areas and a sludge bed. Additionally, well water is contaminated with volatile organic compounds and trace amounts of explosives. While some remedial work has been done, other work is in the planning stage. No cost estimate was available.
- Rockaway Township Wells, a 2-square-mile field containing a cluster of three municipal wells, was found to have widespread contamination from chlorinated solvents and fuel components, according to the EPA fact sheet. Cleanup is still in the planning and design phases and no cost estimate was available.
- Rockaway Well Field near Union Street contains three water supply wells contaminated with tetrachloroethylene and trichloroethylene. The contamination has been traced to two local businesses and remediation is in the design phase. No public money has been set aside for the cleanup because the responsible businesses will be asked to pay.
- Sharkey Landfill in Parsippany is a 90-acre site on the eastern border where such hazardous materials as toluene, benzene, chloroform, dichloroethylene and methylene chloride were disposed. Design work has been completed and other site work is underway. No cost estimate was available.

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JEFFORDS NAMED SENATE ENVIRONMENT PANEL CHAIRMAN

Date: 010710
 From: <http://www.planetark.org/>

By Thomas Ferraro, Reuters News Service, July 11, 2001

Washington - Sen. James Jeffords of Vermont, who gave Democrats control of the Senate last month when he defected from the

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